

# New trial opens old wounds for murder victim's family

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Published On: Nov 12 2014 11:50:18 PM PST Updated On: Nov 13 2014 12:06:56 AM PST  
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SPOKANE, Wash. -

Dozens of Spokane area killers and rapists could receive new trials, thanks to a Washington State Supreme Court ruling about the way their juries were selected.

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One of those killers is Brian Frawley, convicted of kidnapping, raping, and killing Spokane mother Margaret Cordova in 2004. Now, a new trial for Frawley could happen as early as January.

A flood of emotion came over Vicki Solis when she learned the man convicted of murdering her daughter will be tried again.

"Disbelief," she said, "irritated, confused about everything."

Now because of a Supreme Court decision, the nightmare the family went through a decade again will start over.

"[It's] pretty much like starting all over again," Solis explained, "like they just found her and we're just starting to go through it, reliving everything."

At the time of the trial, in order to select an impartial jury, the court needed to ask prospective jurors personal questions, specifically if they had been raped. In order to protect those potential jurors' privacy, those questions were asked in the judge's chambers.

Frawley waived his right to have that part of jury selection done in public. But, in 2007, the State Court of Appeals ruled he wasn't properly advised of all his legal options, and his conviction was overturned.

The State Supreme Court agreed, and ordered Frawley get a new trial.

Solis said the decision comes just as the family was beginning to heal.

"I have pretty much been numb for the last ten years," she said. "Just this year I started to feel things, and then I got hit with this, and it just added on top of this again."

Prosecutors will now face the challenge of trying to find witnesses and evidence from ten years ago.

But Solis said, the family remains hopeful.

"I've got a lot of faith that we're going to come out on top just like we did last time," she said. "It's just a matter of getting through it."

In court on Wednesday, the judge tentatively set Frawley's new trial for early January, but the lawyers said it would probably take longer to prepare.